

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 9, 11, 12, and 17-19 are pending in this application. Claims 7, 10, and 16 are herein canceled without prejudice. Claims 7-12 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,622,266 to Goddard et al. (herein "Goddard") in view of U.S. patent 7,031,009 to McCarthy, Jr. (herein "McCarthy"), and further in view of U.S. patent application publication 2005/0238402 to Yamada et al. (herein "Yamada"). That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Each of previously pending independent claims 7, 10, and 16 is herein canceled without prejudice, and each of claims 8, 11, and 17 is herein rewritten in independent form. Thereby, the claim amendments do not add any new issues that would preclude their entry at this time.

Applicant respectfully submits the claims as currently written patentably distinguish over the applied art. As discussed in further detail below, applicant respectfully submits the outstanding rejection is misconstruing the applied art as the applied art does not disclose or suggest (1) "transmitting an electronic mail including a URL representing the image processing apparatus", and (2) the combination of the applied art does not disclose or suggest "wherein said mail address is associated with the user code representing a user, wherein said image processing apparatus is operable when the user code is input and authenticated", which features are recited in each of the amended independent claims.

In the claimed image processing apparatus and method, a job completion condition can be reported to a user terminal. Further, a thumbnail image data generating device can generate thumbnail image data of a first page of the job, which is then stored in an information source provided in the image processing apparatus. When the job is completed, then an electronic mail transmitting device transmits an electronic mail including a URL representing the image processing apparatus, the electronic mail being transmitted to a mail

address of the user terminal apparatus having requested the job, without transmitting the generated thumbnail image data. The mail address is associated with a user code representing a user, and the image processing apparatus is operable when a user code is input and authenticated.

With such an operation, the user at the user terminal apparatus can then access the thumbnail image data at the information source by utilizing the transmitted URL of the information source, to thereby obtain the thumbnail image data.

In the claims as currently written, the URL of the image processing apparatus, for example a digital copier, storing the generated thumbnail image data can be sent without the generated thumbnail image data, so that the user at the terminal apparatus can then obtain and display the thumbnail of the image data from the image forming apparatus itself.

One basis for maintaining the outstanding rejection with respect to point (1) of the above-noted claimed features indicates the “document metadata [of McCarthy] includes a *URL to the first page of the scanned document* [col. 2, ll. 38-39]”.¹ In reply to that grounds for rejection applicant notes the claims recite the URL *represents the image processing apparatus performing the job, not the scanned document* itself. With such a claimed operation, the job requester can remotely recognize completion of the job previously requested, and the job requester can then approach the printer for the first time to collect a printed output. As the URL *indicates the image processing apparatus having actually completed the job*, the URL can specify the location of the image processing apparatus to the job requester so that the job requester can easily identify that image processing apparatus, and thereby save time and effort in retrieving the completed job.

McCarthy does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features, and applicant also points out the outstanding Office Action does not point to any disclosure in any reference that

¹ Office Action of January 23, 2009, page 4, lines 10-11 (emphasis added).

discloses transmitting an electronic mail including a URL of an image processing apparatus that completed a job. The outstanding Office Action has not properly addressed or considered that feature.

With respect to point (2) above, as noted above each of the independent claims now recites “wherein said mail address is associated with the user code representing a user, wherein said image processing apparatus is operable when the user code is input and authenticated”. Such claimed features are directed to providing that security of a job is generally and specifically maintained. With such claimed features, a user must be authenticated to use a printer by requesting an input of a user code, and thereby an outside user cannot generally use the image forming apparatus, and accordingly security can be generally maintained. In addition, such security is maintained up to the job completion stage as in the claimed invention the e-mail is not transmitted until after the job is completed. Thereby, security can practically be maintained, which will urge a user to quickly collect the printing result. That is also effectuated by the URL indicating the image processing apparatus having actually completed the job. With such a claimed operation, a user having once input his or her code to the printer for authentication would generally and specifically maintain security of the printing job.

Also, with such claimed operations, if the printing job is not that important to the user, the user can also determine not to quickly collect the printing job and by utilizing that URL the user can still review the thumbnail image of the job after reporting the completion of the job. That may be particularly helpful when the user has forgotten about the contents of the job.

Applicant submits none of the applied art discloses or suggests providing such a total security created by requiring a user input.

The primary applied Goddard discloses providing notifications by an electronic mail, but each of the notifications 216 in Goddard is directed to providing a notification of an error in an image forming operation. No notification in Goddard is directed to providing an indication that a job has been completed.

One further grounds for the outstanding rejection now newly cites Yamada with respect to transmitting an e-mail when a job has been completed. The newly cited art to Yamada, however, merely discloses a job completion being reported with messages, but not the claimed security. Moreover, applicant submits McCarthy teaches away from being combined with Yamada for such teachings.

The outstanding rejection cites McCarthy to disclose providing a user input code and authentication, but McCarthy does not disclose or suggest providing a URL as an indication of a job being completed. McCarthy discloses a metadata acquisition service 26 that can send an e-mail, apparently to solicit metadata to be added to a scanned document, to create a file stored in a repository. In that respect McCarthy specifically discloses:

... a Metadata Acquisition Service 26 to acquire the metadata for this document as shown in step 103. The request includes a URL to the first page of the scanned document, the user's email address, and the target repository's name. The Metadata Acquisition Service 26 requests and receives a capability description from a Repository Manager 24...formats an e-mail body with the metadata name supported by the specified repository 32, as shown in step 104.²

McCarthy also discloses the "Metadata Acquisition Service 26 retrieves the first page of the scanned document from the Scan Server 22 and formats it as an e-mail attachment".³

Such disclosures in McCarthy appear to indicate McCarthy teaches away from providing a URL as an indication of a job completion, as instead McCarthy requires the URL

² McCarthy at column 2, lines 35-47.

³ McCarthy at column 2, line 48 *et seq.*

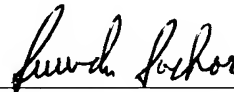
to be sent earlier so as to acquire metadata. Therefore, McCarthy teaches away from being combined with Yamada to provide any e-mail with a URL in reply to completion of a job.

In view of the foregoing comments applicant respectfully submits the claims as currently written positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by Goddard in view of McCarthy and further in view of Yamada.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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